Get in touch
If any of our pictures bring back memories for you, let us know by emailing james.milner@reachplc.com

Huntingdon High Street in the 1960s

recruited had now been fulfilled and that recruitment from the continent should now cease.

Japanese escapee – 1942

DID he escape from Singapore? Among the Cambridge men reported missing when Singapore fell was Sapper William Hall, of 178 King's Hedges Road, Cambridge.

His wife has now received news from a Mrs. Harradine of 13 Owlstone Road, Cambridge, that her husband was amongst those who made their escape from the Japanese. It will be remembered that the escape of Mrs Harradine's husband, Lt. R. R. L Harradine was reported last March. Mrs. Harradine has received a letter from her husband saying Sapper Hall was with him when he got away from Singapore. Mrs. Hall, however, has heard nothing from her husband, and is endeavouring to get in touch with him.

Motor boat record – 1935

VISCOUNT Forbes, a Trinity College undergraduate, expects to make an attempt shortly on the outboard motor boat record with a remarkable machine stored at Marshall's garage at Cambridge.

Tests were carried out on the Adelaide course of a mile near Ely when an average speed of nearly 60mph was obtained but, on the return run, the unit was badly damaged. Looking like a shimmering torpedo, the boat has a six cylinder super-charged engine which emits an ear-splitting scream when full out.

Anti-dazzlers – 1931

THE biggest demonstration ever held of anti-dazzle devices for motor car headlights was held on Midsummer Common.

The crowds were dense, however, in more senses than one: drivers had to pick out a route marked with white stakes but these were constantly obstructed and some got completely misled and finished up on the south side of the common. Amongst those attending were Ministry of Transport and Scotland Yard officials, chief constables and scientific experts who carried out technical measurements.

Wife wanted – 1914

THE Chesterton guardians had a novel application before them at their meeting held yesterday when the Master Mr. A. Wild informed the board that there was a man waiting downstairs who wanted to know if the board could supply him with a young lady as a wife.

During the past month, the man had twice been to see him on the same question. He told the man he could not help in the matter, but he wished to see the board.

Mr. Cross: Does he come from Histon?

The master: Yes. He is downstairs. I have not sent him away, but I told him I did not think you could assist him.

Mr. Hawkins: There is no one in the house who would like to, take this post?

The master: I think not, sir.

OAPs arrive – 1908

A NEW economic era in the life of England has begun with the introduction of old age pensions.

Every man or woman of 70 who has less than 12 shillings a week is entitled to walk into a post office and fill up a form to claim a supplementary income from public funds. In Cambridgeshire, there are about 1,500 who are eligible and in Cambridge about 1,300. There are those who forecast an age of thriftlessness, improvidence and national bankruptcy. But we do not think there is any need to be alarmed.

A couple collect their pensions from Little Wilbraham Post Office

Cambridge students carting their luggage to college

New term begins – 1953

IN a hundred Victorian houses, landladies are renewing notices in the bathrooms.

Along Sidney Street, a young man in a yellow polo-neck sweater trundles a handcart bearing a tin trunk, two leather bags, a violin case, a worn armchair, and a gaily-painted bird-cage.

His un-oiled hair slips sideways towards his ears as he pauses to allow a busload of office workers to hurry by.

Gently rumbling towards Magdalene comes a mechanical horse towing twenty-two identical cabin trunks.

A new term has begun.

Keep up to date with the past

- Read Mike Petty's Cambridgeshire Scrapbook to search for other stories.
- Join Fenland History on Facebook to share your photos and information.
- Follow James Milner on Twitter to receive regular updates each weekend.
- Take a trip down Memory Lane to search for, share and colourise photos.
- Subscribe to Mike Petty's YouTube channel to listen to some of this talks.

national express

HALF PRICE TRAVEL IN YOUR

CAMBRIDGE news

FROM MONDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

*T&C's apply.